

Docket No. RID 01058Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A bale of elastomer composite comprising elastomer composite pieces, wherein the elastomer composite pieces comprise an elastomer and filler, and wherein the bale has a void volume of at least 3%, the elastomer composite produced by a method comprising:

feeding a continuous flow of first fluid comprising elastomer latex to a mixing zone of a coagulum reactor defining an elongate coagulum zone extending from the mixing zone to a discharge end,

feeding a continuous flow of second fluid comprising particulate filler under pressure to the mixing zone of the coagulum reactor to form a mixture with the elastomer latex, the mixture passing as a continuous flow to the discharge end and the particulate filler being effective to coagulate the elastomer latex, wherein feeding of the second fluid against the first fluid within the mixing zone is sufficiently energetic to substantially completely coagulate the elastomer latex with the particulate filler prior to the discharge end, and

discharging a substantially continuous flow of elastomer masterbatch from the discharge end of the coagulum reactor,

and wherein the elastomer composite pieces have a Mooney viscosity of at least 100.

2. (original) A bale of elastomer composite in accordance with claim 1, wherein the bale has a void volume of approximately 3% to approximately 40%.

3. (original) A bale of elastomer composite in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elastomer composite pieces have a generally planar form.

4. (original) A bale of elastomer composite in accordance with claim 1, wherein the elastomer composite pieces have the form of short strips.

5. (previously presented) A bale of elastomer composite comprising elastomer composite pieces, wherein the elastomer composite pieces comprise an elastomer and filler, wherein the bale has a void volume of at least 3%, and wherein the elastomer composite pieces have the form of short strips that are approximately 40 mm to 60 mm long, approximately 5 mm to 10 mm wide, and

Docket No. RID 01058

approximately 5 mm to 10 mm thick.

6. (previously presented) A bale of elastomer composite comprising elastomer composite pieces, wherein the elastomer composite pieces comprise an elastomer and filler, wherein the bale has a void volume of at least 3% and wherein the elastomer composite pieces have the form of pellets.

7. (original) A bale of elastomer composite in accordance with claim 6, wherein the pellets have a diameter of approximately 5 mm to 10 mm and a length of approximately 10 mm to 30 mm.

8. (previously presented) A bale of elastomer composite comprising elastomer composite pieces, wherein the elastomer composite pieces comprise an elastomer and filler, wherein the bale has a void volume of at least 3% and wherein the elastomer composite pieces have a Mooney viscosity of at least 100.

9-33. (cancelled)